

## DESIGNATION OF SAMUEL R. McKELVIE NATIONAL FOREST

SEPTEMBER 13, 1971.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed

Mr. POAGE, from the Committee on Agriculture,  
submitted the following

### REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 9634]

The Committee on Agriculture, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 9634) to change the name of the "Nebraska National Forest," Niobrara division, to the "Samuel R. McKelvie National Forest," having considered the same, report favorably thereon with amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

The committee amendment is as follows:

Page 1, lines 7 and 8, strike out the words ", Niobrara division" and insert in lieu thereof a period.

#### PURPOSE AND NEED

The purpose of this bill is to change the name of one of the three divisions of the Nebraska National Forest. The bill would change the name of the Niobrara division to the "Samuel R. McKelvie National Forest."

The committee feels that this name change is an appropriate action to honor the name of an outstanding Nebraskan and is in keeping with prior precedent established for naming national forests.

#### BACKGROUND

The Nebraska National Forest was established by proclamation of President Theodore Roosevelt on April 16, 1902. The forest consists of three divisions—the Bessey division and tree nursery near Halsey, the Niobrara division near Nenzel, and the Pine Ridge division near Chadron.

The Bessey division is the largest manmade forest in the United States. Since 1902, about 32,000 acres of coniferous trees have been planted. The techniques and knowledge learned from these plantings have been of much value in the establishment of windbreak plantings on countless farms and were also used exclusively by the Forest Service in the shelterbelt program during the period 1935-42.

The Bessey division is located in Thomas and Blaine Counties near Halsey and contains 90,526 acres; the Niobrara division is located in Cherry County near Nenzel and Valentine and contains 116,820 acres; and the Pine Ridge division is located in Dawes County near Chadron and contains 139,052 acres, for a total of 364,398 acres.

#### SAMUEL R. M'KELVIE

The late Samuel R. McKelvie is known as one of the outstanding men in Nebraska history. He was for many years a State and national leader in the cattle industry, general agriculture, and conservation. He was also a former Governor of the State of Nebraska.

The following summary of the life of Samuel Roy McKelvie was furnished to the committee by Representative Dave Martin, of Nebraska, the author of H. R. 9634:

#### SAM MCKELVIE

Samuel Roy McKelvie, the twentieth governor of the state of Nebraska, farmer, rancher, businessman, publisher, and public servant, was born April 15, 1881. The fourth of nine children of Sam and Jennie McKelvie, he was raised on their farm near Fairfield in Clay County, Nebraska.

Marked by boyhood days in which he acquired a deep feeling for, as well as knowledge of agriculture, Sam McKelvie began a multiplicity of careers on graduation from Lincoln Business College in 1901. At the age of 21, his first employment was a field man for one of a half-dozen farm publications in Nebraska at the time—The Twentieth Century Farmer. In just three years of covering and reporting agriculture for the farm newspaper, he had established himself as an authority in his field, and on change of ownership of another farm publication, The Nebraska Farmer, Sam McKelvie was made editor of the newly-based Lincoln publication.

In three more years he purchased and became publisher of the fifty-year-old publication, a move that was to result in The Nebraska Farmer becoming the sixth largest farm publication of more than forty in the nation by the mid-twentieth century—and the establishment of the authoritative publication in nine of every ten farm homes in Nebraska alone. Under the signature of his "By The Way" column, and throughout The Nebraska Farmer, Sam McKelvie was devoted to the improvement, progressiveness and establishment of agriculture as the major occupation and industry it was in supplying food to the nation. Over the course of years in his publishing, political and agricultural careers, Sam McKelvie was to influence the promotion of agricultural improvements and marketing by encouraging establishment of farm cooperatives and mutual livestock associations.

At the time his interests focused on politics and elected government office, the state of Nebraska was in the throes of early development of state government. Sam McKelvie

saw the need for change, and after quick successions in public offices of city council in Lincoln, a term in the state House of Representatives, and a term as Lieutenant Governor, he bid for and was elected Governor of Nebraska in 1918. In two successive terms of service from 1919 to 1923, he initiated such large-scale government reform that he was called the biggest reform/reorganization governor the state had ever had.

Sam McKelvie's Civil Administration Code was a forerunner of modern state government, not only in Nebraska but throughout the United States. It provided for the consolidation of more than twenty far-flung departments, bureaus, commissions and boards into six state departments. He provided an executive budget for the state's cabinet structure of government. With lagging programs in some areas, and others non-existent but needed, Sam McKelvie established a state parks system, a state road program, new agricultural programs including the State Agricultural Information Service, state accounting and auditing procedures, and diversification of funding of roads and highways and other programs.

In the first two years as governor, the reforms and reorganizations that were made resulted in a reduction of more than \$2 million in appropriations to run the state and a cut of one-third of the state's property taxes. The effectiveness of his reform programs lay in the reduction of waste and duplication, the efficient accounting of state programs and operations and the increased efficiency in these operations. But most importantly to Sam McKelvie, the reform resulted in an opening of the doors of elected government to the people—the renewal of responsibility to the people.

Besides his government reform and establishment of important road and park programs, Sam McKelvie was to be instrumental in one other important project for Nebraska as its governor. Perhaps the most visual contribution he made to the state is the Capitol building that stands today. Considered one of the architectural wonders of the world, the new Nebraska capitol was more than a brainchild of Sam McKelvie. It was needed, its design fitting and appropriate to the people and land it symbolizes. Chairman McKelvie and a bi-partisan Capitol Commission solicited plans and designs from around the nation for a year before Governor McKelvie signed the construction contract for the plans of New York architect Bertram G. Goodhue. Sam McKelvie laid the cornerstone for the new \$10 million building that when completed several years later, had no costs remaining to be paid against it because of McKelvie's pay-as-you plan for financing the building.

Not choosing to seek a third term as governor, and with his government reorganization plans in effect, Sam McKelvie returned to his publishing career and began anew in livestock production. In the years that followed his elected public office, he was to continue to be of service to Nebraska and the farm people he loved. First as a successful producer of beef cattle

for breeding, Sam McKelvie served on the American Hereford Association board of directors, including one term as president; he organized, served as president for ten years, and published the bulletin of the Sandhills Cattle Association to promote, advertise, improve, and establish sandhills feeder cattle of Nebraska as the highest, quality beef in the country.

Sam McKelvie's interest in, and promotion and knowledge of farming and agriculture did not go unnoticed beyond the boundaries of Nebraska. He was asked by President Hoover to be secretary of agriculture in 1929, but declined because of illness. Later, after an operation and recovery, another request by the President led to his acceptance of a position on the new nine-member Federal Farm Board, on which he served two years.

Sam McKelvie died Jan. 6, 1956, at the age of 74. He had been a man of many interests, many careers, from farm publications, farming and ranching, to politics and government. But most important, Sam McKelvie had been a Nebraskan, a sower of belief and strength, and determination in the land and its people. He had seen the fruition of many dreams, many aspirations, many beliefs, and concerns come true in his lifetime.

The stabilization and establishment of farming through cooperative programs and alliances with business; the improvement and production of purebred, high quality beef through association of growers and marketers; the establishment of a State road program and State park system in Nebraska; the reorganization and reform of State government into efficient, progressive and responsible representation; the establishment of a new, architecturally acclaimed and debt-free capitol building—all had been the efforts and concerns and product and love of Sam McKelvie.

Always in the interest of Nebraskans and farmers and the nation as a whole, always for the benefit of improvement, betterment, progress, success, and deep concern for the good life, Sam McKelvie felt, breathed, slept, worked, and lived Nebraska, agriculture, economy. He was honest, often daring; he was respectful of personal friend and political opponent alike; he was determined and open-minded; fair and frugal; hard-working and devoted. A man of integrity, he trusted and believed in his fellow man, in Nebraskans, and in his State. Sam McKelvie was a Nebraskan first and always. He was a part of Nebraska.

#### COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

The full committee considered H.R. 9634 on August 4, 1971, and ordered it reported to the House by a voice vote in the presence of a quorum.

The committee carefully considered the Forest Service's alternative suggestion that the Niobrara division be renamed as the Samuel R. McKelvie Division but rejected this suggestion.



While being fully aware of the minor bureaucratic inconvenience that might be caused to certain Forest Service officials, the committee unanimously approved H.R. 9634 on the grounds that ample and adequate precedent and logic exist for this legislation.

#### COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

The committee amendment is technical in nature and clarifies the committee's intent that the Niobrara division of the Nebraska National Forest be renamed as the "Samuel R. McKelvie National Forest."

#### CURRENT AND FIVE SUBSEQUENT FISCAL YEAR COST ESTIMATE

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the committee estimates no additional cost will be incurred by the Federal Government during the current and the five subsequent fiscal years as a result of the enactment of this legislation.

No comparable estimate of costs was submitted to the committee by a Government agency.

#### ADMINISTRATION POSITION

The Department of Agriculture would have no objection to the enactment of H.R. 9634 as indicated in the following report:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,  
Washington, D.C., August 9, 1971.

Hon. W. R. POAGE,  
*Chairman, Committee on Agriculture,  
House of Representatives.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: As you asked, here is our report on H.R. 9634, a bill to change the name of the "Nebraska National Forest," Niobrara division, to the "Samuel R. McKelvie National Forest."

The Department of Agriculture would have no objection to the enactment of H.R. 9634. We suggest, for the committee's consideration, an alternative approach which is embodied in the enclosed draft bill.

H.R. 9634 would designate the present Niobrara division of the Nebraska National Forest as the "Samuel R. McKelvie National Forest," Niobrara division, effective from and after the date of enactment of the act. All laws, regulations, and public documents and records of the United States in which such national forest is designated or referred to under the name of the "Nebraska National Forest," Niobrara division, shall be held to refer to such national forest under and by the name of the "Samuel R. McKelvie National Forest."

Samuel R. McKelvie was a native of Nebraska, born April 15, 1881. He is a significant figure in the history of the State of Nebraska and of the area of the present Nebraska National Forest.

McKelvie's public service included terms on the City Council of Lincoln, in the Nebraska House of Representatives, and as Lieutenant Governor. In 1918 he was elected Governor and 2 years

later reelected, serving until 1923. As Governor, he caused many changes which have had strong impact on the Government and life of Nebraska's residents.

After retiring from office as Governor, McKelvie published the Nebraska Farmer. He declined appointment as Secretary of Agriculture in the Cabinet of President Hoover, but was a member of the Federal Farm Board from July 1929 until June 1931. Subsequently, he was active in the Sandhills region of Nebraska.

The names of national forests or units of national forests may be established or changed in several ways, including designation through an act of Congress. One of the criteria which we consider in connection with proposed national forest name changes is the selection of a name connected with the history of the area of the national forest involved. The proposed renaming of the Niobrara division of the Nebraska National Forest as the Samuel R. McKelvie National Forest appropriately meets this criterion. The name change will serve to highlight the role McKelvie played in the history of Nebraska.

The actual effect of H.R. 9634 would be to rename the Niobrara division as the McKelvie National Forest, and not as the McKelvie division. There are a number of other units in the Nebraska National Forest. The committee may wish to consider retaining the present designation of the Nebraska National Forest, and renaming the Niobrara division as the Samuel R. McKelvie division. The enclosed draft bill would accomplish this.

The Office of Management and Budget advises that there is no objection to the presentation of this report from the standpoint of the administration's program.

Sincerely,

J. PHIL CAMPBELL, *Acting Secretary.*





